

**HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**Minutes of the October 10, 2023**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

Call to Order -Pledge to the Flag: 6:30 pm by Supervisor Jim Brown

Roll Call: Supervisor J. Brown, Clerk A. Mennell, Treasurer J. Phillips. Trustees, J. Partridge. D. Olson, W. Wetzel, and S. Savage.

Also Present: 3 guests

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda: Motion made by Trustee Wetzel to accept the agenda (excluding Library and Planning and Zoning reports), seconded by Trustee Olson, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 regular meeting and other consent agenda items. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – R. Teunessen

2024 budget hearing on the 24<sup>th</sup> multiple hearings will be held to get public input on new COA building. Questioned about the costs to reside at Harvest Point which is tax free compared to other facilities in County which do pay property taxes. Will be discussing solar farms zoning at future meeting.

Previous Business

1. Telephone service – received data from Verizon on equipment and monthly fees if using their services. Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Olson to change the carrier for the Township with a cost of new equipment not to exceed \$1200.00 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays. Partridge will contact Verizon representative to get this started.
- 2.

New Business:

1. 2023 budget amendments – Clerk Mennell requested an increase in the Fire Services category of \$52,000.00 to cover equipment costs for BIRCH and Mercy Ambulance, an increase in the Township Hall category of \$12,500.00 due to the asphalt work and increase from AT&T and a decrease in Recycling of \$6,000.00 due to the closing of the recycling module. Trustee Wetzel motioned to accept the recommendations from the Clerk for the budget revision for a total of \$58,500.00 which was seconded by Trustee Partridge. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
2. 2024 salary resolution, Clerk Mennell presented the resolutions which included a 3% cost of living increase. It also included a separation of Cemetery Administration and FOIA duties to separate out the nonmandated duties the Clerk is currently handling. Trustee Wetzel motioned to approve the 2024 Salary Resolutions with Trustee Olson seconding the motion. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
3. Fire Equipment grant – the City of Hastings applied for and received a grant totaling \$50,000.00 which is for the City, Hastings, Baltimore, and Rutland townships to split equally, Supervisor Brown requested the funds be left in BIRCH to be used for more equipment replacement. Motion by Partridge and seconded by Trustee Wetzel to have the Township share of the grant money to be turned over to BIRCH for a base towards future equipment purchases. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
4. Discussion on turning the back portion of the township hall lawn into a pollinator garden area with Pierce Cedar Creeks assistance, thus reducing the amount to be mowed. Approved for Supervisor to get more info from PCC.

Warrants presented for payment- Motion by Trustee Partridge and seconded by Trustee Savage to approve the warrants totaling \$68,978.54 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Dept. Reports:

\*\*Treasurer’s Report: quarterly CD interest and closing of the ARPA account. Motion by Trustee Wetzel with second by Trustee Olson to accept the Treasurers report as presented. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

\*\* Clerk’s Report: Rutland, Hope and Hastings Township have formalized our agreement for the 9-day early voting. This resulted in one worker per day from each township and the 3 Clerks will alternate days of supervision. The Townships are responsible for paying their workers and some discussion was held on extra pay for workers for weekends. The early voting site is at Rutland Township Hall. Visited Castleton Townships meeting and met with Clerk regarding the consolidation for the Nov. 7 special election.

\*\*Supervisor Report: Possibility of the City and BIRCH having a new agreement. BIRCH is changing the method of billing Townships for services to 1.25 mills per dollar of taxable value.

Public Comments –

B. Scheck on costs of fire equipment and how the State mandates replacement schedules. T. Greenfield stated BIRCH has failed the community by not looking ahead to future needs and planning accordingly.

Board member comments

Wetzel stated his wife received better care at Thornapple Manor than the nursing homes in Grand Rapids she was in.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Olson to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED by voice vote, all ayes.

Meeting adjourned 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita S. Mennell – Clerk

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

Date \_\_\_\_\_